

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

January 13, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This week, the eyes of the world are on Michigan, on Detroit, and on the future.

At the North American International Auto Show, automakers are showing off their latest designs and tantalizing consumers with a glimpse of what could be in their driveways later this decade.

But the Auto Show in Detroit is more than a showcase for concept cars. It's also a showcase for Michigan, for our great Michigan manufacturers, and for the fact that we are, without a doubt, the global center of the automotive industry.

Our concept of Michigan's future is to continue to be the center of this vital industry and to continue to be a manufacturing powerhouse for decades to come.

We're also focused, intently, on diversifying our economy by investing in emerging, high-tech industries.

And we're working to implement a comprehensive program that moves Michigan's economy forward on both fronts.

To maintain our manufacturing edge, we've passed targeted tax cuts that will help employers like Delphi and Visteon, Ford and GM, keep jobs in Michigan.

To maintain our position as the automotive capital of the world, our \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs Fund will invest in alternative energy and advanced manufacturing businesses to make sure that Michigan innovation and Michigan technology are the driving force behind the cars of the future.

And to diversify the economy, the 21st Century Jobs Fund is also building on the strengths of the auto industry.

For instance: Michigan manufacturers pioneered micro-technology to develop vehicle airbags, and now, countless Michigan businesses are taking that technology in whole new directions. The 21st Century Jobs Fund will help them grow and succeed in this fast-growing and high-tech industry. That fund will create 72,000 jobs, all kinds of jobs for all kinds of people, but jobs that will make us competitive as a state.

So, even after the crowds at Cobo Hall subside, the eyes of the world will still be on Michigan. They'll be looking to see what the next great Michigan innovation will be.

Perhaps it'll be a new car with a fuel cell engine. Or, maybe it'll be a life-saving drug, or advanced technology used by our troops overseas.

Whatever form that innovation takes, it'll be a source of Michigan pride – and we all can be proud that we're investing in our economic future, and we're doing it today.

Thank you for listening.